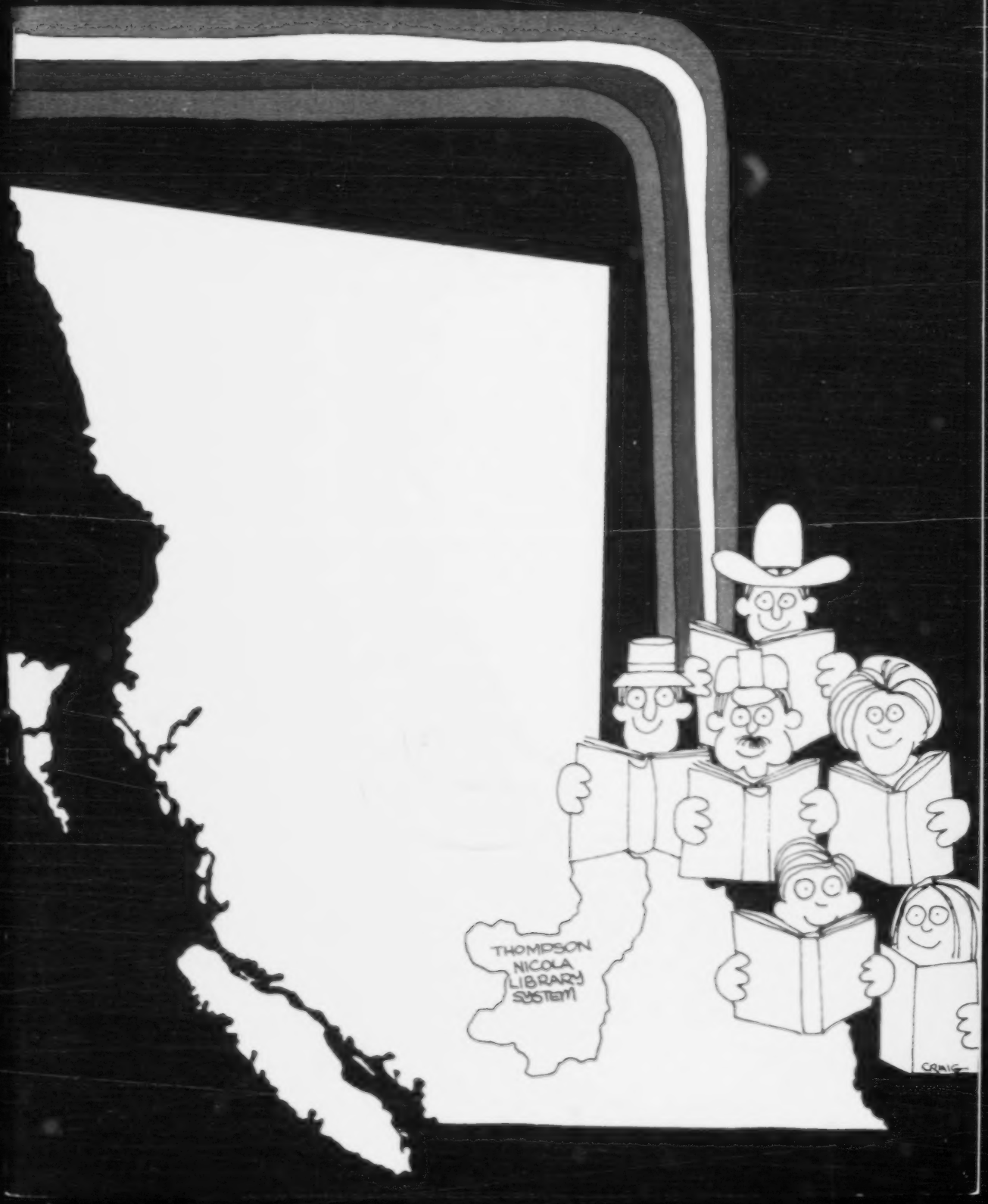
1974 Annual Report

library development commission



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REPORT

for the

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

1974

R. J. CULOS, Burnaby, *Chairman*
MRS. J. CHADWICK, North Vancouver
J. L. DUNCAN, Vancouver
R. D. FERGUSON, Vancouver
G. M. MARTIN, M.D., C.M., Kamloops

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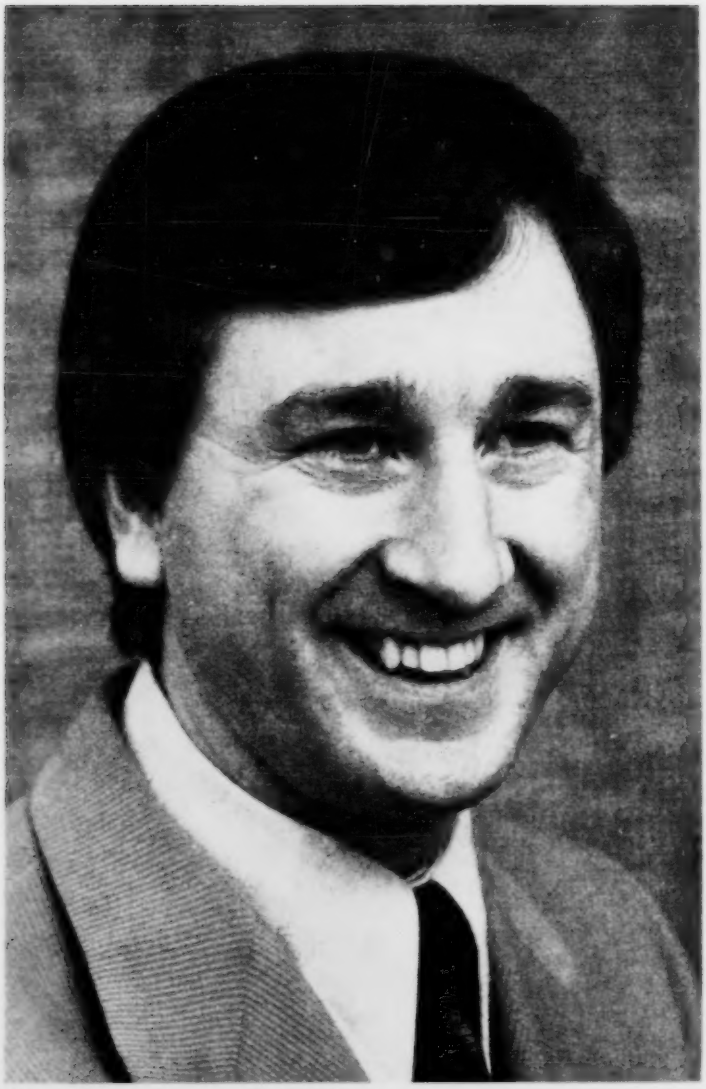

Raymond J. Culos, Chairman, Library Development Commission.

104-04668/

VICTORIA, B.C., January 1975.

To Colonel the Honourable WALTER STEWART OWEN, Q.C., LL.D.,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Annual Report of the Library Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1974, is herewith respectfully submitted.

ERNEST HALL
Provincial Secretary

VICTORIA, B.C., January 1975.

The Honourable Ernest Hall,
Provincial Secretary, Victoria, B.C.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of the *Public Libraries Act*, I have the honour to submit the Report of the Library Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1974.

R. L. DAVISON
Director, Library Development Commission

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATION

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1250 Quadra Street, Victoria
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Open Shelf and Travelling Libraries
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North Central Branch
3907—15th Avenue, Prince George
Branch Librarian: Miss P. E. Bowlby

Peace River Branch
1017—105th Avenue, Dawson Creek
Branch Librarian: J. L. O'Hare
(appointed July 1973)

East Kootenay Branch
17 South 11th Avenue, Cranbrook
Branch Librarian: Mrs. Helen Gordon

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Report of the Library Development Commission for the Year Ended March 31, 1974

INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN
(Raymond J. Culos)

The year in review records the degree to which the Library Development Commission was successful in fulfilling its assigned responsibilities.

The progress achieved in supervising the *Public Libraries Act*, expediting the business and policies of this agency, is summarized by the Director and the senior staff members in accompanying reports.

The following personal observations, which reflect the opinions of the appointed Commissioners, are submitted as an adjunct to the Annual Report for 1974:

During the past fiscal year the amount of the legislative appropriation for aid to public libraries and for the operation of the Library Development Commission has been adequate to complete an approved plan of operations. It is encouraging to note that, in addition to this appropriation, there exist verbal and written commitments for continued Government support. The provision of such support over the next several years will ensure implementation of the *Programme for Library Development*, a plan to provide a high standard of public library services to the citizens of British Columbia.

Paralleling the actual growth in services is the added burden of responsibility placed on the administration. In this connection the Commissioners have responded with great zeal. Supplementary to reporting regularly to the Minister and attending scheduled monthly meetings, the Commission has received special delegations. These sessions, held at the Vancouver office, included discussions with representatives from Vancouver Public Library Board, Greater Vancouver Library Council, and the Trustees Section of the British Columbia Library Association.

Several additional meetings were held in other centres of the Province. Deliberations of the plans for library development were conducted in Tsawwassen (Greater Vancouver Library Council Seminar), Kelowna (Okanagan Regional Library Board), Richmond (Fraser Valley Library Board of Management), West Vancouver (West Vancouver Memorial Library Board), Victoria, and Vernon (British Columbia Library Association), Portland, Ore. (Pacific Northwest Library Association).

These selected examples indicate the ever-increasing demand on the time and talents of Commission members. It may be advisable, therefore, to make this aspect of Commission activity the subject of special examination.

The Commission is fortunate in the calibre of its staff. Individual members in consultative and branch operations have demonstrated a high level of professionalism, especially during periods of acute shortages of support personnel.

To maintain the excellent esprit de corps which exists throughout the Department, it will be necessary to fill a number of senior positions, so as to be in a position to meet the published time-table set out in the five-year plan. A concerted and co-operative effort on the part of the Public Service Commission and the Library Development Commission to attract the desired applicants to fill these vacancies is basic to this question.

Commissioners and staff laud the achievement of Mrs. Alice Simpson, Library Development Commission Consultant, who received the Dr. Helen Gordon Stewart

Award at the 62nd Annual BCLA Conference. Mrs. Simpson was given the award for outstanding accomplishments in public library service in the Province.

January 1, 1974, recorded a significantly dramatic moment in the history of library development in British Columbia. On this day, the first fully integrated library system, under the new program, was established for the citizens of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

Submissions requesting Government support for the planning and (or) establishment of systems have been received from the Kootenay Library System Committee, Okanagan Regional Library, Greater Victoria Public Library, Fraser Valley Regional Library, North Coast Library System Committee, and the Greater Vancouver Library Council. Action must be taken immediately to acquire additional key personnel to conduct the intensive research required to meet the challenges associated with these and other demands.

In accordance with a request from the Honourable the Provincial Secretary, Ernest Hall, and as a method to accommodate constructive criticism of the *Programme*, the Commission will review annually the five-year plan and make revisions as the need arises.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(R. L. Davison)

The Library Development Commission has but one aim in life—to fulfil its role as a service to libraries, particularly those under the *Public Libraries Act*. It is the Provincial agency responsible for the success of publ.c library organization. The Commission's current plan, published this year as a *Programme for Library Development*, is the latest in a line of survey reports, its immediate predecessor being *Public Libraries in British Columbia; a Survey With Recommendations*, popularly known as the "Vainstein Report." The *Programme* is a progression from Professor Vainstein's survey, taking into account social and political changes, most notably the creation of the regional district, a new basic unit suitable for a new form of library system.

Material for the program came from *A Proposal for Province-wide Organization of Library Services in British Columbia*, the Commission-funded publication referred to in last year's Report as "the focal point of all the discussion." The *Proposal's* recommendations are now the official plan and the Commission is hopefully on its way to establishing the 11 library systems that form the jig-saw pattern suggested on last year's cover.

Progress has been slow but substantial. The over-all objective is, of course, the "whole Province" organization, at a rate that will place no undue burden on local acceptance, Commission capability, or Provincial support. Fortunately, all three components harmonized at one point and produced the first new integrated system in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. Unfortunately, this is not the whole piece of the pattern; the Cariboo Regional District has stumbled at the local acceptance obstacle. Its residents have not yet had an opportunity to decide on their future in library service—a regrettable circumstance which, if continued beyond March 31, 1975, will deprive the people of that regional district of Provincial service and assistance through the Commission, under the terms of the *Programme*.

Other system areas are at various stages of preparation. Okanagan Regional Library, one of the three long-established consolidated systems, seems about to

begin considering reorganization on regional district lines, but the other two are still far removed, philosophically, from the local acceptance level. This is understandable, because the *Programme* makes demands that will call for fundamental changes in the structure and even in the service and expansion plans of a library's management.

Regional systems emerge gradually in British Columbia, a pioneering community in which it is normal to oppose anything that appears to be imposition from above. Aware of this, the Library Development Commission strikes the best balance it can between encouragement of local desire and specific offers that are difficult to resist.

We have still a long way to go. Resistance is not confined to Vancouver Island and the Fraser Valley. Haste must also be made slowly in the so-called metropolitan areas of Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria, or, in terms of the *Programme*, the Greater Vancouver and Capital Regional Districts respectively.

Recognizing the danger of over-extended lines of communication and unsatisfiable promises, the Commission has been obliged to postpone the preliminaries in four of the designated service areas while laying out a course of action to encourage a start in the Kootenays. This means devoting the full time of the field consultant (and much of the attention of the headquarters staff) to a new area. It also means preparation on the part of the Commission itself for generous financial support initially and a continuing share of the operating budget as the system grows.

The *Programme* is more than blueprints for new systems. At the Provincial level, it calls for a central agency to carry the back-up services necessary for a Province-wide network. A Provincial resource centre will provide bibliographic services to process requests from public library systems for information and material beyond their individual capabilities; advanced reference and interlibrary loan service for integrated systems; access to libraries of universities, community colleges, and other institutions, including specialized collections in Federal Government agencies and in business and industry; and a union catalogue of classifiable material in all the libraries of the Province.

Except for some centralized cataloguing within the Government libraries themselves, none of the functions of a Provincial resource centre has been started. A proposal for an administrative structure is in its second draft, but further careful planning is essential. Fortunately, the staff librarians enjoy close co-operation with their colleagues in the universities and the school of librarianship. This is particularly valuable in the development of technical services, where the academic libraries have so much capability.

It is gratifying to report that the substantial progress referred to earlier has brought the Commission well into Year One of its "Priorities for the Next Five Years After April 1, 1973" and in some instances beyond its first-year objectives. Long-range planning by Commissioners past and present, plus optimum staff capability over the years, is accountable for this, but only by virtue of the interest and support of the Provincial Secretary and his Department, and the response from the Government and the Legislature in the form of a significant increase in the appropriation for the Library Development Commission's plan. As evidence of further encouragement, the Commission notes that the legislative investment in public library development for the coming year is to be almost double that of this year under review.

NORTH CENTRAL BRANCH

(Phyllis E. Bowlby)

This year was a busy year, and a year of establishment of public library associations. The first three months of the calendar year 1974 produced three new associations—Mackenzie, Nechako and district, and Granisle. The first and the last are "instant" towns, with population potential of 10,000 within a few years. Nechako and district, which is situated on the John Hart Highway just a few miles from the centre of Prince George, will become a branch of the Prince George Public Library, if the amalgamation vote slated for this fall passes. In the meantime, this library will serve a population of approximately 8,000, so we will have our hands full providing sufficient bookstock. Nechako and district is the first public library association in this area to be funded by a regional district, and because only the minimum of $1.50 *per capita* will be provided, the going will be tough. We will provide supplementary books through large travelling collections of three or four thousand books per year. Mackenzie and Granisle will also receive this service, but because their space is limited, the drain on our collection will not be as great.

The addition of these public library associations brings our number to 13, and our staff of six is hard-pressed to cope with their demands. As the associations become larger and busier, their needs increase, and this increase is really making itself felt at headquarters. Book budgets have taken an upward swing this year, which is encouraging, and interlibrary loans have nearly doubled. PLA statistics are all increasing, and larger over-all budgets indicate better rapport between library boards and councils. One community librarian is currently taking the correspondence course, and we expect that at least six will avail themselves of the opportunity this fall. Terrace and Valemount have new librarians; Terrace is the first of the NCAL libraries to employ a professional librarian. With the exception of Valemount and two of our three new PLA's, lack of space is not a great problem. Granisle and Mackenzie will have more space by the time their collections warrant it, but Valemount's situation is serious. The board is aware of this, however, and every possibility is being investigated.

Travelling library service, by design, has decreased, and mail circulation, also by design, has increased. We have discontinued travelling libraries of fewer than 200 books, and now serve residents in very small communities entirely by mail. This move tends to keep books in constant circulation, rather than sitting unused in a general store or a community hall. There was a certain amount of opposition to this when we first made the announcement, as there is to any change, but most people now seem pleased.

The headquarters operation was fairly smooth, in spite of our undertaking several additional functions. We ordered and processed books for the Cariboo-Thompson-Nicola Bookmobile Demonstration, and took on the responsibility for three large travelling libraries outside the area. We also went heavily into the paperback business, which we expect will become a howling success, particularly because we are letting our PLA's have them without payment. Mail borrowers will doubtless make great use of them when we have time to produce a catalogue. There was only one staff change this year—Bryan Huston, our area librarian of one year's standing, left in December to become assistant librarian in Lethbridge. We wish him well, and also wish for an instant replacement.

We appreciate the efforts of the Director and the Commission to increase our budget. The information, although not yet official, that it should be raised substantially in 1974/75, is gratifying. Equally gratifying, is the fact that we received all the new equipment and machinery that we had requested last year. Next year we hope to give thanks for additional staff.

PEACE RIVER BRANCH

(Jim O'Hare)

With the exception of very recent acquisitions, the entire multiple-copy holdings of the Branch are now listed in printed catalogues. We have produced catalogues of adult fiction, adult nonfiction, juvenile books, and foreign language titles. Supplements will be issued as required. Several booklists on such topics as drug abuse, women's rights, energy resources, and consumer education have also been produced and distributed. We continue to produce publicity material for the PRAL libraries as well.

Two workshops have been held for PRAL librarians and trustees. In addition, the Branch librarian attends as many local library board meetings as possible in order to keep informed on library affairs in the region and to provide consultation when necessary.

The community library picture remains largely the same as last year. The Branch currently maintains 45 community libraries and exchanges their collections quarterly. The distribution of our printed catalogues, however, has greatly facilitated exchanges since patrons can now select many of their own books. Mail borrower service continues to increase with total registration now at 117, up 52 from last year.

Within the PRAL there have been numerous staff changes. At Fort St. John, Hettie Sargeant has been the acting librarian since the death of Theresa Hayduck. Hettie will resume her position as assistant when the newly hired professional librarian, Paul Donaldson, takes charge. At Pouce Coupe, Jill Wonnacott replaces Jean Wussow. In Hudson's Hope, Vicki Allen has replaced Ruth Poschner. Marge McKenzie has assumed the position left vacant by Pat Flanagan in Cassiar. Alice Burnett is librarian in Fort Nelson. The Fort Nelson Library which has been operated as a sub-branch of the Commission, became a public library association on January 1, 1974. Fort Nelson's entry into the PRAL brings the number of member libraries to eight, including the Branch. As the PRAL has grown, the qualifications of personnel have gradually risen. All PRAL librarians are now taking or have completed the Community Librarian's Course. Fort St. John is the first library outside the Branch to employ a professional librarian.

Regionalization remains a contentious issue, with basic positions still unchanged since last June. Most library boards see regionalization as a means to improve service and ease the local financial load. Dawson Creek, however, continues to oppose the loss of local autonomy implicit in an integrated system. The Regional Board appear reluctant to assume the financing of a library system.

EAST KOOTENAY BRANCH

(Helen Gordon)

The imminence of system service has been the most important library fact for the East Kootenay area during the past year. The published proposal to give British Columbians the best in library service no matter where they reside, on an equalized tax basis over each regional district, is meeting resistance in areas where population growth is not stabilized, especially where municipal governments are hard pressed providing basic services for residents. The entire southeastern portion of our service area falls into this category, with its expanding population needing more and varied municipal services. Unfortunately, the municipal distribution of funds places library services at the bottom of the purse.

There has also been some negative feeling by the East Kootenay Regional District and the various East Kootenay municipal governments on the inclusion of the Regional District of East Kootenay with the two West Kootenay regional districts in a single library system. Objections have been raised on the size of the area to be served, the different winter climate conditions, settlement patterns, road systems, and different time zones.

Despite all these objections a preliminary establishment meeting for an All Kootenay Library System Committee has been held, with the committee looking for an establishment vote in the three regional districts concerned in November of 1975.

Two new public library associations have been formed, one in the village of Elkford and the other in the municipality of Sparwood. These libraries have both been incorporated in multipurpose buildings. Elkford will share their recreation complex, while Sparwood will be sharing part of a day-care and drop-in centre. Kimberley also has a new library building on the drawing-board to be part of their new recreational complex.

A startling 77-per-cent affirmative by the voters of Area A surrounding Golden for a 2-mill library levy will see the area residents participating in the Golden Public Library service. Golden is also in the building planning stages, and when their building materializes they will transfer to the Okanagan Regional Library, which now serves part of the Regional District of Columbia-Shuswap.

Two library trustee educational seminars were held during the year, one sponsored by the Trustees' Section of the British Columbia Library Association and the other by the East Kootenay Associated Libraries. Each library had at least four visits from the Branch Librarian. A week was spent at Kimberley Public Library with one staff member, weeding books, doing a total inventory, and preparing a card catalogue for the Kimberley Public Library. A mini-conference for library volunteers was also held at Kimberley. A great amount of time and effort was spent with boards and municipal councils getting the Elkford and Sparwood libraries established. Special meetings were also held with the Cranbrook Public Library and the Cranbrook City Council and with the Golden Public Library Board and the Golden Town Council. Community library sponsors were visited at three settlements, and two community libraries were closed at Jaffray and Glacier due to the difficulty of obtaining responsible volunteer help willing to cope with some of the local residents.

This year has been an active and controversial one in the East Kootenays, with excellent gains in library service and increased municipal funding. Hopes for the coming year are that system library service will become firmly established as a better way of library service for the East Kootenay residents.

OPEN SHELF AND TRAVELLING LIBRARIES

(M. Joan Mitchell)

The Open Shelf and Travelling Libraries services were carried on with few changes during the year. As was predicted in last year's Report, the expansion of present library systems and formation of new systems has resulted in a drop in our circulation to individual members and in the number of borrowers registered. The passing of the referendum for library service in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and the establishment of the Thompson Nicola Library System means that individuals living in that regional district will be referred to the new system some time during the next year. At the request of the Thompson Nicola Library System Board we have agreed to provide mail service to individuals and Travelling Libraries service to communities in the Thompson-Nicola until their service is fully established.

Libraries throughout the Province continued to make use of the interlibrary loan service that we offer. There was an increase of almost 2,000 in the number of titles searched. A total of 5,256 books was supplied to other libraries and, of these, 3,975 came from the Open Shelf collection. Again this year we received the co-operation and help of the staffs of the McPherson Library at the University of Victoria, the Greater Victoria Public Library, and the Provincial Library. We are grateful for the help they give us and appreciate their generosity in making material available for this service.

The long-term weeding project continued during the year and we have cleared our shelves of many little-used, outdated, and worn-out volumes. The result of this work is shown in our statistics, which show a decrease in our total volumes in spite of the addition of 5,588 new books. Lists of the discarded titles which might be useful to libraries maintaining comprehensive and historical collections were circulated to the appropriate libraries through the duplicate exchange program. The response to these lists was satisfying, with libraries as far away as Leningrad requesting titles.

During the year the staff of this Branch became closely involved with the promotion of the library system by the Cariboo Thompson Nicola Library System Society. Books for the demonstration bookmobile were processed in this office, with nearly everyone working on the project. In the fall, three of the librarians spent varying amounts of time serving as the librarian on the bookmobile.

With a view to expanding our services to libraries throughout the Province, information on a Telex service was collected. Another unrelated service being considered is a cataloguing support system such as Micrographic Catalog Retrieval Service offered by Information Dynamics Corporation. Both these possible new services have been studied and the information is on file. We hope that sometime in the next year we will be able to provide more services to libraries in the Province through the use of these two systems.

A Committee to Study Inter-Library Lending in the Capital Regional District was formed in the spring of 1973 and our staff was represented at the meetings of this committee, which included discussions of methods of transporting books from one library in the region to another.

Visitors to the library during the year included the class of the University of British Columbia School of Librarianship, students enrolled in the library technician course at Vancouver City College, Langara, and a group of new staff members from the Greater Victoria Public Library.

It is a pleasure to record my appreciation of the co-operation and support received from the staff of both the Open Shelf and Travelling Libraries in keeping our services running as smoothly as they do.

FIELD CONSULTANT SERVICE

(Mary Leask)

Work on system development again took priority over regular work with the small libraries and nearly the whole of 1973/74 was spent in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

By the beginning of the year under review the Plan of Service for the proposed Cariboo Thompson Nicola Library System had been approved by the Cariboo Thompson Nicola Library System Society and submitted to the Library Development Commission for approval. As soon as this approval was given in May, together with a pledge of financial support, the society moved into the next phase of operations—informing the library boards and the regional district boards of the financial aspects of the proposal and asking for permission to hold a referendum in the fall. Meetings held with committees of the Regional Boards in July resulted in tabling of the question by the Thompson-Nicola Regional Board until September and refusal of the Cariboo Regional Board to allow a referendum.

On June 4 the demonstration bookmobile went into service in the two regional districts and proved most successful. During the six months of the demonstration a total of 40,561 books was circulated, of which 29,862 were in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and 10,699 were in the Cariboo Regional District. Registered borrowers numbered 3,232.

As a result of the decision of the Cariboo Regional Board not to allow a referendum, the society sought Commission support for a two-phase programme, aimed at a referendum in the Thompson-Nicola District in 1973 and the following year in the Cariboo. The Commission agreed, the Plan of Service and costs were redone to reflect the change in scope, and the new revised budget was presented to the Thompson-Nicola Regional Board for its meeting on September 7, when approval of a referendum on November 17 was given.

The next step was to inform the eight municipal councils in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District of the system proposal and costs and ask them to exercise their option of joining the system without putting the question to referendum. As a result, Ashcroft, Cache Creek, Kamloops, Logan Lake and Merritt voted to join without a referendum. This was not only a great morale booster but it simplified the campaign.

The referendum campaign itself was a low-key affair. Essentially it was a person-to-person campaign relying extensively on small, informal "information nights" and door-to-door contact carried out by local supporters in each community, supplemented by radio, television, and newspaper interviews and advertisements.

The results on November 17 were most gratifying. The referendum passed in each of the 10 electoral areas and three municipalities where it was held. The over-all vote was 88 per cent in favour of the system.

At its meeting on December 7 the Thompson-Nicola Regional Board instructed its Secretary-Treasurer to apply for supplementary Letters Patent and appointed an Interim Library Board consisting of Roger Behn, Chase, Chairman of the Cariboo Thompson Nicola Library System Society; David Driedger, Merritt; Leslie Powell, Ashcroft; Larry Snelgrove, Kamloops; Mrs. Jacqueline Stonier, Kamloops, repre-

sentative of the City of Kamloops; Mrs. Hazel Van Allen, Clearwater; and Walter Winter, Little Fort, representative of the Thompson-Nicola Regional Board. The Interim Board met for the first time on December 14 and Roger Behn was elected chairman. At this same meeting I was appointed Interim Director, while still retaining my assignment as consultant to the Cariboo Thompson Nicola Library System Society.

The first three months of 1974 were spent on the organization of the new system and the hiring of a director. At the end of March the decision was made to appoint Harry E. Newsom to this position, effective May 1.

Meanwhile, attempts to gain support in the Cariboo were continuing. A meeting of the Cariboo Thompson Nicola Library System Society was held in Williams Lake on December 8 at which three new members were appointed to the executive from the Cariboo, replacing three from the Thompson-Nicola, and Ray Woods, of Williams Lake, was elected chairman, replacing Roger Behn, effective January 1. The bookmobile demonstration started up again on January 7, with continuation after March 31 dependent upon approval being given before that date by the Cariboo Regional Board to the society's request for a referendum in November 1974. At the same time the society attempted to win support of library boards, municipal councils, and members of the Regional Board. A formal request to hold a referendum was made to the Regional Board at its meeting in Williams Lake in February and on March 14 the Board turned down the request by 12 votes to 10. Accordingly, the bookmobile demonstration stopped on March 31 and the active work of the society ceased for the time being.

A new public library association known as the Queen Charlotte Islands Public Library Association received its charter on April 2 and the library began operating from school premises in Masset until a building of its own could be acquired.

The Lillooet Public Library Association received its charter on May 17 and opened in quarters in the Learning Resources Centre of the school district. Strong emphasis was placed on paperbacks in the new library and the response from the community was most gratifying.

In June the fourth annual training program workshop for community librarians was held in Vancouver and Mrs. Joan Mitchell was in charge of a group of 14 persons who had completed the correspondence course.

In Powell River, efforts to co-ordinate the activities of the four public library associations resulted in the incorporation on July 16 of the Powell River District Public Library Association and the dissolution of the Cranberry Lake, Powell River, Westview, and Wildwood Heights Public Library Associations.

The Castlegar Public Library Association received a special John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award for effective communication of library objectives to both public and governing officials, and grants from the Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation were received by Williams Lake, Lillooet, Salmo, and Merritt Public Library Associations among others.

A meeting of library trustees in the Kootenays, held in Castlegar on March 23, was attended by Roger Behn, Chairman of the Thompson Nicola Library System, and myself. This meeting resulted in the first steps being taken to set up a committee to work for the establishment of a Kootenay Library System.

The year 1973/74 was an extremely busy and exciting year, crowned as it was with the success of the referendum in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. Great credit for this success must go to the dedicated members of the Cariboo Thompson Nicola Library System Society and residents of the regional district for their part in selling the system idea. Recognition must also be made of the contribution of people outside the system area who helped in one way or another to

Mrs. A. A. Simpson, Consultant Service, Vancouver.

make the success possible. While pleasure at the outcome of the efforts in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District was tempered by failure to gain permission to hold a referendum in the Cariboo, the door to Cariboo participation in the library system is still open.

CONSULTANT SERVICE, LOWER MAINLAND

(Alice Simpson)

During the year the major part of the Lower Mainland Consultant's time was spent on matters concerning the Greater Vancouver Library Council. Until the end of August the Council was working out of the Commission's office in Vancouver, but in September 1973 it moved to its own facilities.

Preparation of a plan of service for a proposed federated library system was the Council's primary concern during the year. The plan, prepared by a consultant hired by the Council, was received in October 1973 and was accepted in principle, except for the budget. The Council asked its Administrators' Committee to work on a revision of the budget and to revise the part of the plan dealing with services. A new committee was also set up to look into some revisions of the parts dealing with the structure and government of the proposed federation. The Commission Director and the Lower Mainland Consultant were members of this committee. The revised plan of service was approved by Council and in March went to all seven library boards for their approval. The Council hopes to have the plan ready for presentation to the Library Development Commission in April of 1975.

The Council also established a committee to organize a federation information network as a pre-system pilot project. This project will involve

(1) redirection to the reference departments of the Burnaby Public Library and the New Westminster Public Library of a portion of the reference calls coming to the Vancouver Public Library;
(2) provision of a location service through the use of an unlisted Greater Vancouver Library Council line near the main catalogue in each member library;
(3) establishment of a daily delivery service for interlibrary loan among the member libraries;
(4) gathering, interpreting, and evaluating statistics related to this project and to other services in each member library.

The Council's talking book program developed rapidly during the year. All member libraries participated in a pilot project which provided services to approximately 250 physically and visually handicapped persons in the Greater Vancouver area. If the project proves successful, the Council hopes to have a permanent talking-book service in operation by the spring of 1975.

Progress was also made during the year toward the provision of library service to the blind and physically handicapped on a Provincial and national level. The Library Development Commission agreed to accept the responsibility of developing a Province-wide program of library service to the handicapped, including the production of books on tape. The Consultant held several meetings during the year with representatives of the Department of Education, CNIB, Jericho Hill School, and UBC's Crane Library to discuss this very important and specialized type of library service.

The Consultant attended a conference in Winnipeg in October 1973 on co-ordination and standardization of audio book services, at which time Dr. Ian Wees

presented a paper on the National Library's plan for future services to the blind and physically handicapped in Canada. He stated that one of the first priorities will be to establish a task group, to advise on the planning of a co-operative national program aimed at providing adequate bilingual service to those Canadians who cannot use conventional print material. The task group will study existing library services, examine problem areas and deficiencies, and make recommendations regarding funding for a co-ordinated national program. It will also make recommendations on the future role of the National Library in relation to other Canadian libraries and agencies serving such users. The work of this task group will tie in closely with the Commission's plan to develop a Province-wide program of library service to the handicapped, and as such the Lower Mainland Consultant was pleased to have been named a member of the task group.

The consultant attended three meetings of the Inter-Provincial Task Force on Education Materials for the Handicapped. Although its primary concern is co-ordinated production and distribution of textbooks and other educational materials for departments of education, this agency is working closely with the National Library Task Group and with library interests in the Province that are concerned with service to the handicapped.

The Lower Mainland Consultant represented the Commission on the Library Sub-Committee of the British Columbia Medical Centre's Education Committee This group prepared a report with recommendations on the development of a health library network to serve the Province-wide educational and informational needs of people in the health field, i.e., practising workers, research workers, students, patients, and the general public. Two recommendations from this report specifically involve the Commission:

(1) That the British Columbia Medical Centre should assume a special responsibility to provide materials and services for public education on health matters in co-operation with the public library system through the Library Development Commission.

(2) That the British Columbia Medical Centre initiate discussions with the Library Development Commission to develop a plan for the provision of public library service to patients.

The municipalities within the Greater Vancouver Regional District that belong to the Fraser Valley Regional Library continued to seek information and advice from the Commission about the future of their library service. This problem will have to be faced and solved in the near future.

A final project of note should be mentioned in this Report. Four workshops on public relations were held in the spring of 1973 under the joint sponsorship of the Commission and the British Columbia Library Association. Attendance was excellent and many people expressed the hope that similar workshops would be held in the future.

THE COMMISSION'S LIBRARY SERVICE, APRIL 1, 1973, TO MARCH 31, 1974

I. *Open Shelf*

	Head-quarters (Victoria)	North Central (Prince George)	Peace River (Dawson Creek)			East Kootenay (Cran-brook)	Grand Total
			Head-quarters	Fort Nelson[1]	Total		
Circulation							
Adult	31,515	7,859	1,805	6,057	7,862	691	47,927
Juvenile	19,761	1,853	1,349	2,887	4,236	201	26,051
Totals	51,276	9,712	3,154	8,944	12,098	892	73,978
Last year	60,351	8,157	3,200	17,579	20,779	963	90,250
Borrowers Registered							
Adult	4,123	140	27	151	178	151	4,592
Juvenile	2,198	156	26	102	128	61	2,543
Totals	6,321	296	53	253	306	212	7,135
Last year	9,069	320	101	1,048	1,149	260	10,798
Bookstock (Open Shelf and Travelling Libraries)							
Total volumes—							
Adult	88,271	72,413		22,756		35,107	218,547
Juvenile	43,125	36,970		5,334		26,831	112,260
Totals	131,396	109,383		28,090		61,938	330,807
Last year—							
Adult	88,130	63,470		17,692		29,700	198,992
Juvenile	47,336	32,940		5,170		22,857	108,303
Totals	135,466	96,410		22,862		52,557	307,295

[1] Seven months' operation.

THE COMMISSION'S LIBRARY SERVICE, APRIL 1, 1973, TO MARCH 31,1974—*Continued*

II. *Travelling Libraries*

Delivered to—	Headquarters (Victoria)	North Central (Prince George)	Peace River (Dawson Creek)	East Kootenay (Cranbrook)	Grand Total
Public Library Association—					
Collections	36	39	14	361	450
Volumes	5,845	8,562	8,498	17,245	40,150
Communities—					
Collections	199	69	119	46	433
Volumes	19,320	29,645	19,478	5,174	73,617
Total—					
Collections	235	108	133	407	883
Volumes	25,165	38,207	27,976	22,419	113,767
Last year—					
Collections	261	130	149	425	965
Volumes	29,535	37,696	29,677	22,832	119,740

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION EXPENDITURE, APRIL 1, 1973, TO MARCH 31, 1974

I. *Operating*

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Salaries	299,838
Office expense, equipment, supplies	25,533
Travelling expense (staff and vehicles)	15,229
Printing and publications	6,540
Books, binding, and periodicals	152,311
Transportation	2,443
Extension services	190
Freight	8,086
	510,170

II. *Provincial Grants—Libraries and Library Associations*

	$
Systems and system development	412,181
Municipal Public Libraries	320,873
Regional Libraries	158,103
Public Library Associations	155,634
Special grants	136,532
Special projects	13,775
Other grants	2,900
	1,199,998

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